



# CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

*News Release*

**DATE:** March 4, 2019

**CONTACT:** Annie Parker  
916-403-6931 (w)  
916-203-2960 (c)  
[annie.parker@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:annie.parker@hsr.ca.gov)

## Statement from California High Speed Rail Authority, CEO Brian P. Kelly

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Today, I sent a response to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Ron Batory’s February 19, 2019, letter threatening to take back federal funds directed to the nation’s first truly high-speed rail project. I informed Administrator Batory that withdrawing federal funds from this project is unwarranted, unprecedented and harmful to the people and the economy of the Central Valley, California and the nation.

The threat to de-obligate these funds ignores the steady progress made on the project that now has 24 active or completed construction sites, employs some 2,600 workers in the Central Valley, and includes the participation of some 488 small businesses, including 15 from outside California. I informed Administrator Batory that the Authority has met our obligations under our federal grant agreements to date and encouraged him to reject the harmful act of withdrawing federal funds from the project. Instead, I urged him to follow a more constructive path: join me in restoring a functional relationship between our agencies and engage in a structured process to share information, review project risks and resolve all issues to move forward on the project together.

Our mutual goal should be the successful delivery of America’s first truly high-speed rail service.

#####

High-Speed Rail Authority: Connecting and Transforming California

770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento, CA 95814 • T: (916) 324-1541 • F: (916) 322-0827 • [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)

